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**Written testimony in support of Agenda Item 27, CPC Signage Ordinance (April 8, 2010)**

Dear Mayor Leffingwell and Austin City Council Members:

I am currently a student at UT and am unable to attend this morning's City Council Meeting due to a scheduling conflict. However, I wish to submit written testimony of my recent experience with an Austin crisis pregnancy center, in support of the sign requirement ordinance.

Last year I missed a period and thought I might be pregnant. I knew that places around town provided free pregnancy tests, so I found the Austin Pregnancy Resource Center, right in my neighborhood near UT campus. The website offered "accurate information about all of the options available." When I arrived, a young woman in her early 20s and an older woman in her 60s took me into a small room. The staff did not seem to be medically trained.

The intake procedure involved verbal questioning about my relationship status, religion, job, and other things that I felt were intrusive. They wanted my phone number so they could "follow up" with me, but I didn't even know if I was pregnant yet, so I wasn't sure what type of "following up" I would even need.

I was asked to give a urine sample, which was then taken into another room. While I waited for the test, the women proselytized me and made me read Christian texts with them. They did not provide me with information about parenting, adoption, or abortion, but I took several pamphlets from the waiting room. These texts all denounced abortion and were very one-sided. I could not get any information from the Austin Pregnancy Resource Center about where to get real reproductive health services, Plan B, or abortion. After about 20 minutes I asked whether I could see the results of my pregnancy test. They showed me the test, which was negative. I wondered why I couldn't have just administered it myself, since it was the basic type of test one can purchase at CVS. I felt uncomfortable about the experience and would not recommend that anyone go there, even for the free test.

Respectfully submitted,

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Late Backup